

**The Crucible, Act II** by Arthur Miller  
**Vocabulary Warm-up Exercises**

**Exercise A** Fill in the blanks, using each word from Word List A only once.

Many people nowadays seem critical or even [1] \_\_\_\_\_ about the trend in America towards a lawsuit-happy society. These days, it does not take a disaster or a(n) [2] \_\_\_\_\_ to trigger a lawsuit. On the contrary, even the slightest mistake or misfortune can lead to a formal action before a judge or [3] \_\_\_\_\_. Often a jury is urged to [4] \_\_\_\_\_ the complaining party for damages. In such cases, the witnesses may seem angry or [5] \_\_\_\_\_. Sometimes, however, this appearance of outrage is really part of an overall strategy of [6] \_\_\_\_\_. Lawyers often urge their clients not to hesitate or [7] \_\_\_\_\_ in presenting the most dramatic picture possible of their plight. Some commentators on this legal picture have resorted to [8] \_\_\_\_\_, pointing out that the only people who seem certain to gain much from these disputes are the lawyers themselves!

**Exercise B** Decide whether each statement below is true or false. Circle T or F, and explain your answer.

1. If you felt you deserved a prize, you might *begrudge* its award to someone else.  
T / F \_\_\_\_\_
2. Enemies insulting each other at the top of their voice are behaving *civilly*.  
T / F \_\_\_\_\_
3. When you answer a question *evasively*, you are speaking in a straightforward fashion.  
T / F \_\_\_\_\_
4. Someone *flailing* in the surf is a candidate for rescue by a lifeguard.  
T / F \_\_\_\_\_
5. Those who *flinch* before a challenge can be said to meet it enthusiastically.  
T / F \_\_\_\_\_
6. Employees who perform their job *ineptly* are likely to be promoted.  
T / F \_\_\_\_\_
7. A *weighty* decision deserves much research and consideration beforehand.  
T / F \_\_\_\_\_
8. A *wily* character should not be trusted.  
T / F \_\_\_\_\_